

The Neutral View

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food

Holi Delicacies

Thandai

THANDAI INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups Half and Half (use regular milk)
- 2 cups Whole milk
- 1 tablespoon Rose water
- 1/4 cup Sugar + 2 tablespoon (adjust according to taste)
- 3/4 - 1 cup Water (adjust accordingly)

THANDAI MASALA INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon Cashew pieces
- 1 tablespoon Melon Seeds (chaar magaz)
- 1/2 teaspoon Saffron strands
- 1/2-1 teaspoon Cinnamon Powder
- 1/2 teaspoon Nutmeg Powder
- 1-2 teaspoon Rose petal spread (gulkand)
- 1-1.5 teaspoon Saunf powder (Fennel seeds powder)
- 1-1.5 teaspoon Cardamom Powder
- 1/2 teaspoon Poppy Seeds
- 10-12 pieces Almonds
- 10-15 pieces Pistachios
- 3-4 pieces Black Peppercorns



METHOD

Let's begin by soaking saffron strands in milk. Boil milk in a bowl and soak saffron strands in it. Allow it to sit for 15 - 20 minutes. Soaking saffron strands in hot milk releases its color and flavor. Stir it with a spoon and milk will have a beautiful pale yellow color. Set it aside.

Add all the nuts and spices (only the whole spices not the one in powder form) to a grinder. Grind spices to their powdered form. Set it aside. You can ground the spices in a motor and pestle too.

Boil milk in a heavy bottomed pan. When it comes to a full boil, stir in the nuts and spices one by one. Whisk so that no lumps remain. Add sugar and keep stirring the liquid. Give it a good boil and take it off the flame. Allow it to cool completely.

After 30 minutes stir in saffron flavored milk, rose spread and rose water. If no rose spread available add 2 tablespoon rose water. Allow it to sit for a while (an hour or more) so that it can soak in all the flavors. Later sieve it through a strainer, add water and refrigerate this drink for at least 3-4 hours or until chilled. Thandai taste best when served chilled.

Ingredients For Malpua Recipe For the Pancakes

- 1 Cup Plain Flour / All Purpose Flour (Maida)
- 2 Teaspoons Semolina (Sooji)
- 2 Teaspoons Powdered Sugar
- 3 Slices of White Bread
- 1/2 Teaspoon Green Cardamom Powder (Hari Elaichi Powder)
- 2 Tablespoons finely sliced Pistachios, for garnishing
- 2 Tablespoons finely sliced Almonds, for garnishing
- 3 Tablespoons Clarified Butter (Ghee), for frying

FOR THE SUGAR SYRUP

- 1.5 Cups Water
- 1/2 Cup Sugar
- 4 Crushed Green Cardamom (Hari Elaichi)
- 5-6 Saffron Strands (Kesar)

METHOD

Take Plain Flour (Maida) in a working bowl. Add Semolina (Sooji) and Powdered Sugar to the bowl. Mix all these dry ingredients well. Add water in desired quantity to make a batter of smooth consistency. Ensure that there are no lumps. Take 3 slices of white bread and crumble them in a food processor. Bread here is used as a substitute of yeast for fermentation. Add this crumbled bread to the batter, mix well and leave it aside for 15 minutes to allow fermentation.

In the meantime you can prepare the Sugar Syrup. Take a pan with broad base. Add 1/4 cup water to it and keep it on the flame. Add sugar to the water and heat it for 6-7 minutes to get a sugar syrup of flowing consistency. Take the syrup off the flame and add Saffron Strands (Kesar). Remove the skin from 4-5 pieces of Green Cardamom (Elaichi) and crush the inner seeds. Add the crushed Green Cardamom to the syrup. Allow the syrup to cool to room temperature.

Take a Pan (Kadai) and heat 3 spoons of Clarified Butter (Ghee) in it. When hot pour 1 big spoon of the pancake batter into it. This pouring should take place in center of the pan and should be from a little height and also bit spread out to about a 2 inch circle. Allow it to cook for 1-2 minutes and flip to the other side. Repeat flip till both sides become golden brown in color.

Dip the cooked pancakes in the sugar syrup. Malpua is ready. Take them out of sugar syrup and place on plate. Garnish them with finely chopped Almonds and Pistachios and serve hot.



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food

Gujiya

INGREDIENTS FOR THE DOUGH

- 1 cup Maida
- 1 tablespoon Sooji (Semolina)
- 1/2 teaspoon Baking soda
- 1 tablespoon Unsalted butter or Ghee
- A pinch of Salt
- 1- 2 tablespoon Milk

GUJIYA MIXTURE INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 cup Dessicated Coconut
- 1 cup Crumbled Khoya/Mawa
- 1/4 cup Superfine Sugar
- 2 tablespoon Milk
- 10-12 pieces of Raisins
- 12-15 pieces of Almonds
- 12-15 pieces of Pistachios
- 2 tablespoon of Cashew pieces
- 2 teaspoon Green Cardamom powder
- 1 teaspoon Saffron strands

SUGAR SYRUP - OPTIONAL

- 1/2 cup Sugar
- 4 tablespoon Water
- 1/4 -1/2 teaspoon Green Cardamom powder
- 1 teaspoon Rose water
- Few pieces of Saffron strands



METHOD

Assemble all the ingredients needed for gujiya dough. In a big bowl combine all the ingredients And knead a soft pliable dough .Cover the dough and let it sit for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile let's begin with our gujiya filling. Assemble all the ingredients. • In a heavy bottom pan add mawa, dry coconut and toast them on low heat. Toast for 15 minutes on a low flame when the mixture turns light brown in color, add saffron strand. Mix and take it off the flame.

In a separate kadhai add nuts (except raisins) and toast them on a medium flame. Once they start

omitting their aroma, take it off the flame and allow it to cool completely. Ground them in a grinder until it turns into a fine powder. Add this nutty mixture to the mawa mixture along with raisins.Stir it well. Add sugar, milk and mix until everything is well- blended

This mixture should be moist. To check - take some mixture in your hands, squeeze and if it forms a soft ball, its perfect and if its still crumbly add few more drops of milk to form a soft ball

Now to make Gujiyas ,Take a small golf size ball of the dough. Roll it in a thin circle. In the half fold, place some gujiya mixture. Fold gujiya into half. Apply water along the edges and seal it tight. Using a fork SECURE the edges by making imprints of the fork. Gujiya is ready for frying. All the gujiyas should be sealed properly or they will open up during frying, leaving a mess.

Heat oil in a pan. When ready for frying, lower the flame and fry gujiyas until golden brown in color. Gujiyas need to be fried in medium hot oil for a crispy layer. Remove from oil and drain it on the paper towel. Gujiyas are ready.

Let's prepare the sugar syrup. Combine all the ingredients in a pan and on a medium flame bring it to a boil. Scum will start forming on top of the liquid. Using a spoon, collect and discard. I had to remove it twice during the whole boiling process. Keep boiling till the liquid is reduced and it start to thicken. Lower the heat, dip spoon in the syrup and remove. Do not touch for the first few seconds, it will be very hot. Touch the syrup with your finger and if it coats your finger it means that it is about to reach it's first string consistency.

Dip each Gujiya in this syrup for 2-3 minutes and set it on a clean plate. sugar glazed Gujiyas are all set and ready to be eaten!!



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THERE IS A CO-RELATION BETWEEN HEALTH OF PARRIKAR AND THE STATE

When we were all set with our edition of magazine, there was a news that really was surprising and pleasing. Chief minister Manohar Parrikar who was admitted in Lilavati Hospital in Mumbai was discharged and returned to the State to present the Budget.

It was unbelievable considering the strong rumours that were spread about his health. Parrikar showed his will power, and we can say love towards the State.

Earlier, the news about the illness of chief minister Manohar Parrikar was sudden and shocking for the state which was waiting for him to table one of the most populist budget. During this tenure, Parrikar had embarked on a major challenge which is dangling between providing good governance and keeping his alliance partners happy.

The first news that we broke was about Parrikar being treated at Goa Medical College and Hospital. Our website was the first one to break the news before anyone. Though this is an achievement for any Journalist, considering the content of the news, it was too sad to be happy about.



Sources close to Parrikar maintained that he was ill and had stomach ache. And since he was going to Mumbai for his prior appointment, his family had decided to take second opinion in the hospital there.

It was told that he would be checked by a doctor in Mumbai's hospital and then he would proceed for his work.

Parrikar remained hospitalized from February 15 onwards and several news about his health are being flashed. The official version is that he is suffering from pancreatitis.

It is undisputed fact that Parrikar during his political career has won the hearts of the people. Many may call him as an arrogant person but his style of functioning was could not match any of his predecessor.

He was also the reason for sudden rise in the popularity of his party in the State. Parrikar's fan following spreads across all the section of people including Christian population who has been benefitted with the social welfare schemes that he designed during his tenure.

His popularity has nothing to do with his party. It is all his personal achievements.

When we speak about the crisis on the mining industry, there are two kind of arguments that are being made out.

He is the first person to openly point out the illegalities in the mining sector through his Public Accounts Committee report. I still remember interacting with him when he was extensively explaining how illegalities in the mining were flourishing. His report was the base for the Supreme Court's verdict which shut down the mining industry in the year 2012 till late 2014. In that sense, he can be considered as one of the reason behind mining crisis.

But at the same time, the wise and bold decisions taken by him as the chief minister to address the problems of the people affected with the mining closure helped them to tide over the financial crisis. The doles offered to them really helped this section of people living in the mining belt.

Parrikar has been considered as the master in economics. His well thought policies are worth emulating by the State governments to counter similar kind of situations to avoid people committing suicides.

It was a sheer coincident that his sickness

came during the time when mining industry was once again pulled into the crisis and they were looking at Parrikar to provide them the solution.

Couple of press conferences before he was taken ill were marked with the solutions for mining issue. He had clearly said that the government will work out solution for this issue.

There is no politician in the current lot who has the clear understanding about the mining industry, the way Parrikar has. The failure to provide solution for this issue will plunge several thousand families into crisis. The current agitation by the mining truck owners is indication of the frustration building up amongst those people dependent on this industry.

For BJP, which has not created any parallel leadership around Parrikar, these are difficult times. They have no credible face to replace Parrikar, if he remains out of the political bounds for next few months. They will have to manage with the second rung leadership which don't have kind of exposure that Parrikar has.

Those leaders who brushed shoulders with Parrikar during initial days of BJP in Goa have gone into oblivion. Laxmikant Parsekar, Rajendra Arlekar has faced defeat during 2017 elections. Sripad Naik has been elevated to the centre. The RSS leadership led by Subhash Velingkar which was with Parrikar has also divorced him.

In this situation, BJP will have to nurture the leadership which can take over till Parrikar returns back to the active politics with the proper health.

The parties like MGP and Goa Forward party has already announced that they will remain with the government till Parrikar is the chief minister. Considering a situation that BJP might replace Parrikar with another face giving him time to relax for some time, there is no certainty on the stability of the government.

GFP and MGP will have all the reasons in the world to withdraw support. If Parrikar remains out of political bounds for some time, then it is for sure that the stability could be compromised.

The return of Parrikar in the state is miracle and shows his will power. That is why our cover says 'Parrikar did it.'



MANOHAR PARRIKAR SURPRISES ALL!!!!

His absence saw coalition government in fluid while BJP finds handicapped

TEAM TNV

Manohar Parrikar- one who is known for his U-turns and unexpected political moves; took everyone by a surprise ON Thursday, when he landed in the State Assembly to table the Budget.

Since February 15, Parrikar was undergoing treatment at Lilavati hospital in Mumbai for pancreatitis ailment. Several speculations and rumours were simmering surrounding his medical health. However, he put everything to rest on Thursday.

Irrespective of all this; Parrikar, who is known for his dedication towards work, governance and State, was in constant touch with the officials in Goa- giving verbal directions/ instructions as far as the State Budget was concern.

State Budget 2018-19 which was drafted with much care by the Chief Minister was tabled by him.

Irrespective of all this, one cannot neglect the political situation in Goa that had turned fluid after Parrikar's sudden hospitalization.

The ruling BJP in the State too suffered from serious leadership crisis in absence of their beloved 'bhai' Parrikar, the tallest-leader of the saffron party for more than two and half decade now. The 63 year old Parrikar has worked from the front to grow this national party in the State since 2000, when it formed the government for the very first

In absence of Parrikar, senior most Minister from his coalition Ramakrishna 'Sudin' Dhavalikar was made leader of the House.

Beyond this session, senior BJP leader and minister for legislative affairs Francis D'Souza was supposed to head the party. Now with Parrikar back, how long still not clear, he will continue to head BJP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, were amongst the top BJP leaders who visited the ailing chief minister, one of their long-time lieutenants in the BJP. In fact, Prime Minister's Office and Gadkari are

personally monitoring the medical treatment of Parrikar.

TNV analysis the situation in Parrikar's absence.

IN the 40-member Goa assembly, the BJP leads a precarious alliance with MGP, Goa Forward, and two independents. The BJP won only 13 seats in the February 2017 election against the Congress party's 17. Soon after, the BJP number went up to 14 and the Congress tally reduced to 16 as Congress legislator Vishwajit Rane resigned and joined the BJP. Rane later got elected on a BJP ticket.

The Congress party has held the BJP-led alliance guilty of "stealing the mandate and betraying the people of Goa" and blamed Parrikar for heading "an unholy government". While the BJP-led coalition has formed a common minimum programme, there have been frequent bickering and differences of opinion among the three parties over a number of issues. It was only Parrikar, whose interventions,

helped resort all issues- making everyone seat together.

"Parrikar is the only glue that has kept this rickety government intact. While the speculations on Parrikar's health continue, the situation here has led to turmoil. Will have to wait and see how long everyone keeps the patience," a senior BJP leader, expressed it before TNV.

The Leader even pointed out, in absence of Parrikar, who if tomorrow prefers to quit from active politics on health ground, it would be difficult for BJP to cope up. "Only the sympathy wave can work," leader said.

The alliance partners were confident about Parrikar's return to take over the charge of the government soon. "He will be back soon and take over the charge. MGP has pledged their support to the BJP led alliance and we will not withdraw it till Parrikar is the chief minister," MGP President Deepak Dhavalikar told TNV.

He said that there is no question

of withdrawing the support even if Parrikar remains out of question for longer time. "Till he is the chief minister, we are there with the government," he said.

GFP president and Minister in Parrikar cabinet Vijay Sardesai too is hoping for his Chief Minister's come back. "Our loyalty with Parrikar remains. We are not going to backstab him in this condition. Parrikar is a fighter and we all know that he will come back and hold the charge," he commented.

However, the bigger question that this raises is over the future of the BJP in the state without Parrikar in the lead. Minus Parrikar, there is no BJP in Goa. BJP has not taken enough trouble to mentor a second-rung leadership in the state. Although Parrikar managed to form a coalition government, a majority of its senior ministers including former chief minister Laxmikant Parsekar lost the election (in 2017 polls).

The BJP's two other senior faces include Union minister Shripad Naik and state chief and Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar. Naik has been a CM-in-waiting for long, but critics say he has no safe constituency. Also Naik is not very much loved in the party.

Another senior leader and incumbent Minister Francis D'Souza is also not medically and physically fit to take the charge of party full-fledged. Of late he too is going from serious medical problems.

"On or the other day, Parrikar had to retire from active politics. It is fact but the current situations are unexpected and also traumatizing for the party. Party members were never ready for such kind of situation," Tendulkar said refusing to speak anything further as he turns emotional.

Another BJP leader, on request of anonymity said, "Time has come when we need to project a new leader. Who it will be, we have no idea as at this point of time, we have no face in mind. But when Bhai comes back, we will hold discussion on this. Bhai himself would like to get his successor," the leader stated.





MMC starts crack down on commercial establishments without trade licences

TEAM TNV

Not too long ago the Margao Municipal Council had urged all the Margao businesses to get compliant with trade licences. The request fell on deaf ears. The MMC had gone ahead and formed a special purpose vehicle and a special counter for the registration of trade licences. However, even after the request, the same received very faint response. The MMC as their final measure has not cracked the whip on the commercial establishments in the Margao town. The shops operating without trade licenses were sealed by the MMC team.

At least 5 shops in Pajifond and Malbhat areas and 5 shops right in the heart of Margao town were sealed for not possessing or not displaying trade licences.

The Margao Municipal Council Chief Officer Johnson Fernandes had issued the orders to seal the shops operating without trade licences. Shops in Margao commercial areas like Malbhat and Pajifond were sealed until further notice by the team of MMC. Looking at the brewing trouble many shops around the areas of action remained shut.

The Accounts and Taxation officer of MMC Abhay Rane has informed that the action will continue and more shops, which fail to produce the trade licences, will be sealed if they don't acquire one and display it on time. The MMC has also said that the Shops who have trade licences are mandated to display them at the shop. This has been advised to make sure minimum trouble is given to the people who are compliant to the licences.

It may be recalled that the issue of trade licences has rocked several MMC meetings and there has been a pressing demand for survey of Margao and Fatorda Commercial areas for compliance. It was also known that several important commercial avenues have hundreds of businesses but never had acquired any trade licences for years.

Now, demands that the same action



The licence will be on the basis of one undertaking on Rs. 50 stamp paper and light or water connection proof

be used for the shops in the Gandhi and new Market areas and penalise the one who are not compliant.

The MMC in the month of September 2017 had decided to have the dedicated counter for the issuance of Trade Licence and collection Signboard tax. The Chairperson had then contemplated the revenue collection to jump to crores after the exercise is complete.

The Chairperson of MMC told that the issuance and payments will be most hassle free and has urged all the traders who have complained that getting trade licence from MMC is a

tough task. "The licence will be on the basis of one undertaking on Rs. 50 stamp paper and light or water connection proof," told Chairperson of MMC Babita.

The Chairperson has admitted that there are shortcomings in the Administration of the MMC and hence they have also contemplated an outsourcing of the collection of Trade and Other Taxes on revenue sharing model.

There are thousands of unassessed residential premises and 80% of commercial units without proper trade licences. A Building with 200 shops only has 30 to 40 trade licences issued which will result in honest men being charged and others free of fees.

"Since the Shadow Council for Margao and Loyal Taxpayer's of Margao have been consistently demanding that illegal trade establishments in Margao should be brought under the tax net, we sincerely congratulate the MMC for the drive by which 10 establishments were sealed. Our special congratulations to the Chief Officer Mr. Johnson Fernandes, for this bold initiative" said Savio Coutinho of Shadow Council.

"While hoping that the public will cooperate, we also expect the MMC to simplify the process of issuing trade licence so that the rush for trade licence which is likely to follow is cleared in minimum possible time," he said.

However, there have been some grays in this inquiry. Earlier last week



While hoping that the public will cooperate, we also expect the MMC to simplify the process of issuing trade licence so that the rush for trade licence which is likely to follow is cleared in minimum possible time

the team, which had gone to a bank in Margao, did not find the establishment in compliance of the trade licence. However, it is being informed by sources that team returned back after getting a call from a politician. People of Margao have urged the MMC to go ahead with this inquiry in the most independent manner, as it is the need of the hour.



TEAM TNV

In the small beautiful village of Betul lies a very old fort at the mouth of the Sal River. It used to be a very important trading point during the Portuguese times and has a glorious past. However this fort now lies in total ruins with a very little of its traces left to call it a fort. Built on the orders of Shivaji Maharaj in 1679 Shivaji Maharaj had sent orders to the Hawaldar of Balli to build the Betul fort at a very strategic point which faces the mouth of Sal River so that they could control the Trade entering the River Sal.

The fort every year comes alive on the Independence Day and Shiv Jayanti on 19th Feb. Like every year this year to the fort was decorated and a bust of the great king Chatrapati Shivaji

Maharaj was installed at the fort. The fort sits in the small village of Quittol and is popularly called the Betul fort now. As we pass through the village of Betul winding through the narrow roads we reach the foothill of the fort. A short climb to the top one can see a big heavy canon placed at the tip of the fort. The History Lovers Group who has been fondly cleaning the area had in 2014 improved the condition of the fort. The cannon on the top had become virtually invisible to the people due to the thick bushes and dense vegetation all around the fort. An effort was made to clean up the fort on 16th November 2014.

"History Lovers Group" took on the challenge to clear this mess and restore the lost glory of the fort. Professional help was sought to clear

Shivjayanti at betul fort increases hopes for improvement of the ruined bastion

all the factors which were causing unnecessary damage to the already neglected fort.

The locals recount that many years back the National flag used to be hoisted at the fort. The tradition had discontinued "History Lovers Group has revived the tradition.

As a part of the same on 19th Feb the "History Lovers Grp" and "Betul Shivpremi Sanghatna" celebrated "Shivjayanti" on the historic Betul Fort on 18th Feb 2018. The programme began with a Bike rally consisting of more than 500 Betul villagers who started the rally from Betul Fort and covered Velim, Assolna, Bhiusa, Fatorpa and back to Betul.

A formal function was organised with Shri Babu Kavlekar (Leader of Opposition), Shri Vijai Sardesai (Minister for TCP, Agriculture & Archives & Archaeology), Fr Albino Mendonca (Parish Priest), Shri Sachin Madage (Artist & Historian) and Shri Akbar Mulla (Leader of All Goa Muslim Assn) as the guests at the program. The bust of Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was garlanded by all dignitaries.

It was good news for Betul fort as the TCP Minister Vijai Sardesai speaking on the condition of the fort said "The fort presently is in private and also in the Captain of Ports possession. I will help to acquire the land from private possession said"

TCP Minister Vijai Sardesai. "I will also raise the issue in the ensuing assembly session" told Vijai.

Vijai also spelled out the importance of Shivaji Maharaj's administration skills and emphasized on how Shivaji Maharaj ruled as a Secular King taking people from all religions with him in making the Maratha empire a success.

Leader of Opposition Babu Kavlekar appreciated the History Lovers Group for consistently following up with the Notification and Restoration of Betul fort for the last 3 years. He also gave assurance to the villagers that he will give out his best to get the fort restored at the earliest.

Fr. Albino Mendonca appreciated the History Lovers Group and also the Betul Villagers for creating such a wonderful environment on the occasion of Shivjayanti. He said that this kind of brotherhood between Betulkars should always remain for the future.

Yogesh Nagvenkar (President, History Lovers Group) said that this is a new history which the Betulkars have created by showing such love for the history of Shivaji Maharaj and Betul Fort. Sachin Madage spoke on the history of Shivaji's relation with Goenkars. His history session was much appreciated by the Betulkars as it provided direct connect with Goans.



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Dandeli

A heaven hidden in the forests

AMEY JOSHI

As I was going through some old photographs of our family vacation, I came across a few photos which we had clicked at Dandeli. It has been a decade, since we visited this place back in the winter of 2008. The reason why this trip was very special is because it was just supposed to be a drive to the place and back to Goa on the same day. But, we underestimated the distance and the destination. The village of Dandeli is approximately 140 Kms from Panaji, and it takes nearly four hours to reach the place. After reaching there we realised that, you cannot get the best of this place unless you spend an entire day or two.

The forest area of Dandeli was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary on 10th May 1956, but at that time covered only 204.33 sq.km. This was enlarged to 5725.07 sq.km on 10th May 1975. Realising that this was too big to manage with the industrial and mining pressures, it was reduced to 834.16 sq.km on 1st September 1988, and further to its present size of 475.02 sq.km. on 29th April 1994.

The Government of Karnataka has taken a good initiative called Jungle Lodges & Resorts which operates in other forest areas like Dandeli in the state. These resorts provide packages which includes, boat ride, white water rafting and an evening safari into the wildlife sanctuary. People are able to enjoy the beauty and serenity of the area without disturbing it.

We checked in to one such resort by name Kali Adventure Camp. The resort is located on the Kali River, and is at a distance of 10 Kms from the boundary



of the Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary. The resort provides accommodation in airy tented cottages facing the river, and in deluxe rooms with modern amenities. Having keen interest in wildlife it gave me a sense of excitement of what you can experience. Well, after having lunch, the first activity on the list was the evening safari through the Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary. Having visited the wildlife sanctuaries in Goa, I knew how difficult or a matter of luck it was to spot even a small wild animal in the forest. Maybe it's the challenge to spot a wild animal in its natural surrounding keeps the level of excitement high. Even though the excitement was high, the expectations were low, but I have to say that I underestimated Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary. After driving deep in the forest we came across an open plain where we saw herds of spotted deer grazing. "Well, that was lucky", was the first thought that came to my mind, but the luck was not done with us yet. As our vehicle drove deep in the jungle, our driver stopped the car while our guide pointed his hand outside the vehicle and said, "There is the bison," and this was the first time when I actually saw a



huge wild animal in its natural surroundings. We requested our driver to wait there for some time to enjoy this majestic and huge creature moving around. After spending nearly four hours driving through this thick forest

it was dark, and time to turn back to our hotel and feast on some scrumptious dinner. The next day it was time for an early morning coracle (a small round boat) ride through the Kali River. The boat ride along the Kali River will help you encounter many colourful bird species such as hornbills, storks, flycatchers, falcons, bluetheatedbats, bulbul etc. Even though this river is infested with crocodiles our guide assured us that they don't have a taste for humans.

Apart from its natural beauty, flora and fauna, Dandeli also has to offer something for the people having keen interest in local history, legends and folklore. A local legend states that the city is named after Dandelappa, a local deity, a servant of the Mirashi landlords, who lost his life because of his loyalty. The Dandelappa Temple is one of the important places to visit in Dandeli which attracts pilgrims and devotees all over the year. This is one of the oldest temples in the Dandeli town. An alternative legend states that a king named Dandakanayaka passed through the forests and named them after himself, and the city is believed to stand on the place where

Dandakaranya stood when he named the area.

Another important site is the Kavala Caves. Visited by pilgrims from all over the country especially on occasions like Shiv Ratri, Kavala Caves also welcome nature lovers and photography freaks to witness a phenomenal creation of the nature. River Kali slowly enters the caves from 40 feet down. Kavala caves is a surreal yet an important place on the list of Dandeli attractions.

Another most desired tourist destination for heritage lovers and trek enthusiasts, among the places to visit in Dandeli is the historic Shivaji Fort. It is believed to be once built by the great Chhatrapati Shivaji. The fort proudly boasts of the clever warring techniques and strategies implemented by the warriors to win an ongoing war and protect the fort from the enemies.

Pre-dating the Shivaji fort, Sri Mallikarjuna Temple stands as yet another oldest and most important Dandeli places. The temple witnesses pilgrims throughout the year. Majorly famous for the incomparable architecture of the temple.

The temple of UlviChannabasaveshwara is another important destination which is at a distance of 48 Kms from Dandeli.

Even though we had spent only two days in Dandeli, the unique feeling that this place has to offer will help you remember the time you spent at this place for years to come.

The writer is a staff of TNV



LOVE THAT HURTS

CHARLENE FARELL

February is the month of love, or so we have been told. Today, before and after Valentine's day we have other days of love being commemorated too. Somewhere, I heard that the 15th of the month was supposed to be 'singles' day. How ironic I thought this was! Just the previous day we are supposed to swoon over our valentines and the next day we are too leave them high and dry and jump on the bandwagon of singlehood so as to keep up with the latest fads. It is all of this and the fact that we are not taught about the importance of everlasting love anymore. We often see so many couples and marriages that are crumbling at their seams. There is a song of the yesteryears that I loved for its melody and rhythm. But only in adulthood did I understand the deeper meaning of it. The song in question, 'Cheating heart'.

Infidelity, is not the leading cause for divorce, communication problems are, but infidelity comes in a close second. The way I see it, communication problems are what

leads to infidelity in the first place. This issue is one that needs to be examined much deeper. What makes one person in the relationship or both in some cases cheat? Is a question I have always asked. Most of the time, the one who cheats will blame the other person in front of their spouse. Very often I have also heard the line, 'Men are like that only'. Then, why is it that women do the same in their marriages? Another question I have pondered on is, what exactly entails cheating? Is it infidelity only when there is a physical relationship, or do other behaviours also count? And finally, why has the divorce rate gone up in the recent past? Didn't couples cheat on each other and had communication problems in the past? Today, I won't try to answer these questions as I said they are questions of my own mind. All I will do is share my thoughts on them in hope that some of my readers would also share their ideas and together we can come up with answers, one day we might all have.

To begin with the first question, of why people cheat in the first place. Of all the couples I have counselled

over the years, I have understood that communication and boredom are two of the most common reasons. Couples say that over the years and as they switch gears from the honeymoon period into the mundanities of life, they fall in to certain habits and lose the spark that they once had. They also said that as life threw its various challenges at them, they found that the way they communicated also changed. The lack of time to rebuild their communication also plays an important role. Variety, is the spice of life said one bold gentleman, my question was, then why trap one with a document that claims marriage? To which I got no response. The media also glamorizes infidelity and I can't understand why.

Over to the next question. Well, I have heard this and read this a thousand times before, that Cheating in not only physical. Sometimes, it doesn't even get there. When a person who is in a committed relationship, shares an intensely intimate connection with another individual, where they speak regularly or message each other, or talk to or think about the other in a sexual or romantically intense way, that is what I have understood as all that entails cheating or infidelity. Why does this happen? Sometimes it is because people have been forced into marriages that they didn't want, or again, boredom has set in and life with the spouse has become too routine. Every relationship needs work and constant attention.

Once the kids come along, couples turn their attention to them, thus leaving very little space for the spouse. Relationship, especially marriages, require constant work, attention and patience.

Why has the rate of divorce risen recently? Well, I have plenty of theories here. Either it is because the world has got super connected with technology and it has just become easier to cheat, or women have now found themselves working outside the home and thus, more in the company of like-minded individuals who excite their intellect more than the man they have at home. Even the men are not behind in finding grass much greener on the other side than their own house. There are plenty of reasons that we can come up with but one thing I would like to also mention is the very little focus that we give to building and maintaining relationships in the age of technology. It has become very easy to walk out and it is no more a taboo. Again, it is each one's choice. But when there is a cheating heart in the mix, the result is manifold. It is not only the two lives that are ruined but multiple lives that get affected. Proper focus on building of a relationship and the maintenance of it too, should be a concept taught at every level. For love is the beacon of hope on a dreary day, the answer to all our problems. So let's be wise and find a way to make love last, and last a lifetime.

The writer is a counsellor at Sunshine Worldwide School

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“The core dna of the show has always been soulmates” Avinesh rekhi

TEAM TNV

Tell us something about your character as per the new track in the show ‘Tu Sooraj Main Saanjh Piyaji’?

Uma Shankar who is a purist with strong beliefs in following traditions and norms, will for the first time move out of his shell and uncover Maasi's true intentions. Uma has his own unique traits which will be interesting for audiences to watch and will be unveiled as the show progresses. Uma Shankar, who has never gone beyond Laadnu will be discovering the world through Kanak's eyes. Uma Shankar will evolve as a man who is traditional yet contemporary.

What is the new track coming on the show?

The new track which is coming in the show is really exciting, as the entire story has changed we have shot the major chunk of the new track in Bangkok. In the story the masi (Sadiya Siddiqui) runs away with Uma's medicines to Bangkok and the blame for Madhura's death comes on Uma. This is when Kanak decides to stand by Uma and prove his innocence. They all the way travel to Bangkok to expose masi. It is for the very first time, Kanak and Umashankar are getting together to fight against a common force in a foreign land.

As we see Kanak has changed Uma's life completely for good. What is the importance of Kanak in Uma's life

The core DNA of the show has always been soulmates. One always looks for perfect compatibility when choosing a life partner / soulmate – A Sooraj for a Sandhya. Kanak has become the driving force, making Uma (who has never stepped out of his town ever) get out of his comfort zone and being the reason for the positive transformation. Umashankar, who has never gone beyond Laadnu will be discovering the world for the first time through Kanak's eyes. Kanak's parents; Sooraj and Sandhya



were Diya aur Baati in the true sense as they always supported each other through thick and thin. Now their daughter Kanak is on the voyage of becoming a true soulmate to Uma Shankar by standing beside him in exposing Maasi.

How exciting was shooting in Bangkok?

Bangkok was a great fun, we explored many places like walking street in Pattaya which is very famous. We shot at some exotic locations like Buddha Temple, beaches, floating market. But very importantly one thing I decided to take home from here were fruits because the kind of fruits we get in Bangkok are amazing and really fresh. The trip was like a mini vacation for us we worked like how and partied like crazy. I'm a big fan of sea food, last day on the shoot I made sure that I try each and every kind of sea food here.

There is a sequence in the show where you replicated John in Dostana, please tell us something about it.

Yes, it was a sequence where I had to wear a really short swim trunk and seduce a gay manager like how John wore in Dostana, but it was not a replication of any sequence we just took an idea from it. It was damn funny when I had to do it the gay manager – Kunal Kumar was too good the way he acted for a moment even I felt a little awkward. But it was super fun and me and Kunal share a great bond so after the scene we laughed out so much.

What is your disguised look and why?

Audience will see Uma in a Sardar look and as per the track Uma doesn't have a passport and Kanak helps him to get to Bangkok without a passport. Uma will be seen as Harpreet and Kanak as Diana. They change their look to trap and expose masi. They had to do all that because when they reached Bangkok they saw more what they expected. Also, I'm a Sardar and it was like an opportunity to play myself on the screen.

Along with a lot of films and Tv shows you have also worked with Rani Mukherjee in Dil Bole Hadippa, How was your experience working with her?

Well, it was my debut in the film and it was an amazing experience working with her. What I like the most about her is she is very professional and I really respect her for that. She is very organised and to the point which is very evident in her performance. There is so much to learn from her. I loved her in Mardani and now her movie Hichki is all to release and I wish her all the luck for the same. I have seen the trailer and it is mind blasting.



A role model for youth of this country: Ashutosh Shrivastava

GUNWANTI PARASTE

“A Maverick Young and Dynamic Lawyer who set a benchmark and became a role model for youth of this country in Legal Profession/ Industry by representing INDIA at the most coveted International Forum for Achievers amongst all over the world, held at “House of Lords” (British Parliament), London, United Kingdom recently.

As it is very well said that “Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself; but talent instantly recognizes genius” as the whole world has witnessed when the Supreme Court Lawyer Aashutosh Srivastava have set a miraculous example for all the young and passionate lawyers by receiving ‘MAHATMA GANDHI SAMMANAWARD’ for his exemplary performance in the legal business field at a very Young Age by the Honorable Minister of Britain at a highly elite “House of Lords” (British Parliament) in London recently..

Adv. Aashutosh Srivastava born on 5th October 1982 is a young leading lawyer by profession practicing in Supreme Court of India and High Courts across India. He is also a Member of Supreme Court Bar Association, New Delhi. He has served as an advocate/attorney and legal counsel for many of his important clients and successfully handled cases ranging from high profile to challenging constitutional ones. He plays a niche in handling national and international arbitral disputes. He is known as a maverick lawyer with many distinctions to his credit. He obtained law degree at an age of 24 Years. He is a well known face amongst the legal community in Pune and in India. He has worked on various cases ranging from company laws, civil laws, criminal laws, family laws, properties, arbitration, antitrust and trade regulations, banking and insurance laws, employment & labour, taxation, regulatory compliances and many more. Srivastava was born in a holy place in the district of Gaya, India in the family of Mr. Pramod Kr. Srivastava and Late Mrs. Veena Pramod Srivastava and has been brought up in Mumbai, India. He has been a very bright, distinctive and a scholar student in school and completed his matriculation with distinction and higher secondary school degrees from



Mumbai. He secured an LLB degree securing First Class at a very young age from Y C Law College, Pune affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune.

Mr. Srivastava started his career in legal profession by starting up his own law firm viz. AA Associates, Advocates & Legal Advisors based at Pune, India. He has done his schooling from Sudhagad Education Society's English School, Mumbai and secured First Class with Distinction in his Senior Secondary School (SSC) Examination and did his Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) from Mumbai itself with First Class. He is a First Class alumni in B.S.L., L.L.B. and obtained his law degree from Pune University, Pune, Maharashtra, India. Further, he pursued his PGDMM from Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies (SIBM), PUNE.

Mr. Srivastava has served himself in many complex and critical legal matters across all industries in different parts of the country. He has been an arbitrator for many significant and distinguished cases and handled the assignments successfully in India as well as across the globe and has resolved many complex disputes between the parties. His clients include multifarious MNC Companies, renowned builders / real estate barons

and infrastructure companies, financial institutions; manufacturing companies, IT based companies and many more across all industries. He possesses a superb skill of arguments handling all litigation matters successfully and appeared in several important cases before the Supreme Court of India and High Courts across India especially Bombay High Court and extends to successfully handling cases related to Enforcement Directorate (ED) as well. He has been practicing as a lawyer since 2006.

Mr. Aashutosh Srivastava had set a miraculous example for the entire young and passionate lawyer friends by receiving ‘MAHATMA GANDHI SAMMANAWARD’ for his exemplary performance in the legal business field at a very young age by the Honorable Minister of Britain at a highly elite “House of Lords” (British Parliament) on 27th September, 2017.

Adv. Srivastava is the recipient of the prestigious “RISING STARS AWARD 2016” amongst All India Nominations for Young and Eminent Lawyers conceptualized and organized by The Legal Era Gen. next Counsel Congress and Award (GNCCA) 2016 at TajLands End, Mumbai.

Adv. Aashutosh Srivastava has time-honored the Most Prestigious &

Highly Acclaimed “GLOBAL ACHIEVERS AWARD” for Legal Excellence at the Eurasian Economic Congress & Indian Russian Dialogue on 6th Dec, 2016 at Moscow, Russia.

He has again recently won the highly prestigious “YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARD” for “Legal Excellence” amongst All India Nominations from the hands of Hon’ble Minister for Justice and Empowerment at India Habitat Center, New Delhi on 6th February, 2017. The Pune based Supreme Court lawyer has very recently won another prominent and well-known RISING STARS AWARD 2017 for consecutive second time on 24/06/2017 held at Four Seasons, Mumbai from the hands of Supreme Court Judge Hon’ble Justice B. Srikrishna amongst all India nominations for young achievers in the legal fraternity. The charismatic event has been conceptualized and organized by LEGAL ERA, which is India’s No.1 Magazine on Business and Legal World.

Adv. Srivastava possesses a niche in his argument skills and has successfully handled many important and high profile cases ranging from Constitutional, Corporate to Criminal ones and shows his maverick practice in Supreme Court of India and other High Courts across India and also serving many clients internationally.

Advocate Srivastava argued the infamous and legendary case in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed before the Hon’ble Bombay High Court in the matter against Union of India, Reserve Bank of India and against the Managing Director/CEO and all other Board of Directors of a reputed bank. The matter was successfully argued and the Hon’ble Court at very instance took the cognizance in the case. This case was invariably covered by many media houses in the country as it projects a financial scam to the tune of more than thousands of crores of rupees affecting millions of bank customers across all over India. He has been appointed for many other significant cases but appeared in yet another prominent case filed by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in the matter of WINSOME Group and successfully represented the companies of the group companies. This matter talks to the tune of INR Six thousand Crores on the charges of money laundering under PMLA.

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Stories Written Through The Lens

TEAM TNV

The first edition of the VINORA, All India Photography contest cum exhibition held on 18th and 19th of February at Kala Academy Panaji, received an overwhelming response with over 300 entries coming in from all over the country. The All-India photography extravaganza was organised by founders of VINORA - Photography & Entertainment Solutions:- Viraj Malkar, Noufal Kaipally, Raju Salkar and Vithoba Mhalkar.

The event was inaugurated by internationally accomplished singer and social activist Hema Sardesai along with the eminent fashion and commercial photographer of Goa Prasad Pankar.

The two themes of the contest "Emotion through lens" and "Incredible Wildlife" offered a diverse perspective to photographers from all over India in participating at the event.

Speaking to Team TNV, organiser of the event Raju Salkar said that it was nothing short of a surprise that they received so many entries within just two days after the event was planned. He also thanked guest of honour and judge for the event Prasad Pankar for guiding them and providing them with inputs about aspects of organising an event of this scale. He also thanked famed playback singer Hema Sardesai for accepting to be the chief guest for the event.

While Bharti Naik and Kedar Marathe clinched 1st and 2nd place respectively in the category of Emotions Through The Lens, Amit Soyru won 1st place and Suvridha Venkatesh Prabhu Chodnekar secured 2nd place in the Incredible Wildlife category. The winners were awarded with a cash prize trophy and a certificate.

Speaking on the occasion, chief guest Hema Sardesai appreciated the extraordinary efforts taken by the organisers - Viraj Malkar, Noufal Kaipally, Raju Salkar and Vithoba

Mhalkar to organise an event of such scale. She also congratulated all the winners of the event and all the participants as well.

The guest of honour for the event and also the judge Prasad Pankar said, "This event is a big success and will act as a platform to many upcoming and enthusiastic photographers."

Team VINORA announced that, this event will be conducted annually.



HOROSCOPE

ARIES

(Mar. 21- April 20)

This period comes with a need for fun and excitement in your social and love life. If all alone during these days, entertainment or creativity will satisfy your increased desire for something new and shiny in your life.



TAURUS

(Apr. 21- may 21)

This is a generous moon phase but falls in your opposite Sign of Scorpio. This will increase you desire or need to carry out great things and succeed.



GEMINI

(May 22-June 21)

A lack of inhibition is especially helpful if you are naturally shy and reserved. This is an excellent time to make new friends and lovers



CANCER

(June 22-July 22)

This is a generous moon phase that is nicely placed for Cancer. It brings a feeling of inner balance and a sense of harmony and contentment with life.

LEO

(July 23-Aug 22)

Your affections will be stimulated and new love is quite possible. It may be difficult to apply yourself to boring routine as you are easily distracted by anything new or shiny.



VIRGO

(Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

This is a good time to sort through any recent personal or relationship problems. You will see both sides of the story in a fair and balanced way.



LIBRA

(Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

The Moon in Libra puts the focus on your private life, home and family. You will feel more emotional and sensitive than normal.



SCORPIO

(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

This is a generous moon phase that brings benefits through new and influential friends, valuable gifts and the love of respectable women.



CAPRICORN

(Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

This is a generous moon phase that is nicely placed for Capricorn that brings a feeling of inner balance and a sense of harmony and contentment with life.



SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

A great time to set off without definite plans, or hold a celebration out of the blue. Expect the unexpected, even with routine activities such as shopping.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Monday to Thursday you can make original breakthroughs in artistic and creative work. You will be expressing your love nature with flair that can also manifest as extra bling or a unique fashion style.



PISCES

(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

This is a generous moon phase that is well placed for Pisces. Your intimate relationships can grow through strong emotional bonding and mutual respect.





We Are Celebrating 15 Years of Rubaru Mr. India this time

Pankaj Kharbanda

TEAM TNV

The force behind upcoming Rubaru Mr. India contest is Pankaj Kharbanda, who is also Vice President of Rubaru. While he is busy putting up the best show of this year in Goa between March 7-10, we caught up with him for his exclusive interview.

Why did you thought of bringing Rubaru Mr. India contest to Goa 15 years after it was originally held?

The 15 years of hard work and teamwork definitely needs to be celebrated. And for that, what could be a better place than Goa? The cool breeze, sunny land and sand make this a perfect destination to celebrate the success of this most awaited event. So we decided to say 'Go-Goa' this time. After holding it in the national capital of Delhi, the event has travelled to the most beautiful tourist destination. Expecting it to be a huge success.

How were the contestants chosen for the event?

The final is a culmination of

a yearlong exercise. We have visited most of the cities to choose the best aspirants. For last six months we conducted the zonal interviews, which included three rounds – personality, talent and confidence. The candidates were also interviewed personally. So from 3,000 contestants, we shortlisted 24 who will be competing for the coveted title in Goa. The desiring one would be winning it and making it big in the industry.

We have seen some of the contestants are from celebrity background. Won't it give an edge to them in the contest?

That is true that couples of them are having celebrity background. But it is a coincident. We didn't select



them for their background but they climbed up the ladder due to their performance by competing with others. Now being celebrity will help them in getting more votes online but the best guy will be chosen as winner, celebrity or irrespective.

What would be the judging criteria for the contest?

There are many criteria. But basic are their humbleness, punctuality, personality, team bonding, discipline, determination towards work and self-confidence. The experienced team of judges will make

the best decision.

What are the future prospects for the winner?

Once a contestant is the winner, from the next day itself his responsibility towards his job changes. We make it sure that they have been more well groomed fitting them into the criteria of International pageant. When they win this title, they automatically get noticed in the industry. Thereafter, there is no looking back for them. Even before they go for the international event, they become pride of India.

Who would be styling the models for the entire event?

I would be doing it myself. Being experienced for 15 years in the industry with

national and international experience, no one will understand the things better.

You have introduced online voting for the first time. How will it help to judge the candidate?

Yes, it is for the first time that in any of the Mr. India event, online voting has been introduced and we are taking the voting very seriously. It indicates the popularity of the contestant, and how much he is accepted across the country. Finally, the winner would be representing India, so he has to be able to carve out himself better than the rest. We are thankful to Goa-based Neutral View Private Limited, which is having national presence to team up with us. The voting is on the website www.theneutralview.com and there are times that the server crashes due to pouring response. We will be able to judge the marketing capability of the contestant through voting. The one who is leading the tally will get direct entry into the top ten.

What are the social service activities that would be held around the contest?

The main aim is always to encourage save girl child initiative that has been taken up by the centre. This year being our 15th year, we have planned several social activities. On March 8, we will be visiting St. Cruz village where we are holding special event for Orphan children and cleanliness drive. The best part is that our contestants will perform before the children and they will be judged on that. We have tied up with Hope Foundation, NGO. There will be a fashion round and also walk on the ramp. And that would be an emotional moment.





Designer Seema Mehta to add glamour to Rubaru Mr. India Pageant

Ace celebrity designer Seema Mehta is expected to add glamour to the contestants at much awaited Rubaru Mr. India 2018 pageant, which will be held in Goa between March 7-10. The designer has already made mark for herself in various fashion events and pageants. The Neutral View caught up with her in the run up for the event.

How different is it to design for the pageant compared to the usual fashion shows?

The pageant like this will decide someone's future. So there is more responsibility and challenge both compared to the fashion shows. Keeping that in mind, I have created a different concept for the event. The concept is that I am working for a proper tuxedo in formal wear so that the contestant looks good and fit. In Ethnic wear, I am designing a different styling so that they look good on the ramp.

What are your plans for Rubaru Mr. India contest?

The ethnic collection is on dark earthy colours but different cowel kurtas, some Nehru jacket, Jodhpuri bandgala, and some Sherwanis. It has Zardoshi embroidery with the animal motifs. I want to make them more presentable and add to their prospects of winning the title.

How much does the costume play a role in giving a makeover for the contestant and how much is his talent?

If a person is not presentable well then how can they show the talent? And it's vice versa. Costume plays important role as it also gives an opportunity to

showcase how they carry certain kind of looks. It also provides opportunity for the judges to judge them better. Contestants will always like to look good besides carrying a good physique.

How different these contestants are from the usual models that you chose for your fashion shows?

These models are not experienced or highly trained. So it is a challenge for the fashion designer to design the clothes in such a way that they carry it fluently hiding their inability to walk the ramp professionally. The usual models are trained for the purpose and these models are not trained. And when it comes to pageant, I don't have option to choose the model. It is a challenge for designer as well to make them look good whatever they have been given to carry.

Your brand has been making waves in the fashion world, but how much important is the current pageant for you for your portfolio?

I always respect people who try to make their career a success. I feel lucky in helping someone making future in the fashion industry. I really thank Rubaru who chose me to help these young men make their future in the industry. It is always a pleasure to get



associated with the brand like Rubaru Mr. India that has put up this pageant.

Your brand created waves in India Fashion Week in Dubai in the year 2015. Do you expect similar or more response this time for Rubaru Mr. India event?

Of course, I am expecting more response. Every year I do some or other activity, I have fashion shows I have also worked for beauty contests. I have also worked on Miss Earth. I am looking at more good activities in future. From 2015, my brand has grown manifold and my experience will reflect during the Mr.

India Pageant.

What are your future plans

I want to take my brand to higher level. I want to work hard. There are so many things that I plan to do. I will disclose them once I am ready for that.



Goa Budget was more of Parrikar, less of economics this time

RUPESH SAMANT

Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar was cynosure of all eyes as he got out of his official car at the State legislative assembly complex. Clad in a blue shirt and his signature style of dressing, he was smiling, confident, looked a bit of weak. Entire media, legislators, staff of assembly had left their seat and were waiting to see Parrikar arriving.

Accompanied by his elder son Utpal, the chief minister greeted all the legislators and walked into the assembly through the cordoned area. He walked straight and swift, indicating that his health is much better now.

Last five days were full of rumours and news related to the health of Parrikar who was shifted to Lilavati Hospital on February 15. He suddenly took ill and went to Mumbai. The version about his health went on changing from food poisoning to mild pancreatitis. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu visited him in the hospital.

Parrikar had faced the medical emergency little before the Budget Session for which he was preparing. The Budget which is usually tabled in March was preponed. The session was in the news for the demands like installation of statues. Mining issue was hovering around with people looking at the assembly for the solution.

And then Parrikar's ill-health happened. Entire focus was shifted. The session was curtailed from 40-odd days to just four days. MGP leader Sudin Dhavalikar was made leader of the House and he was made to play a role of chief minister. It was decided that Dhavalikar would table the Budget. Till the morning of February 22, the discussions were around whether Dhavalikar will just table the Budget or will read the speech.

BJP camp was adamant that Dhavalikar should only table the budget and sit down, while Dhavalikar wanted to read it. After all, he would have created history if he had to read the budget. He would have been first

non-finance minister of the State to table or read the Budget.

Even when assembly began, there was not even a slight hint of what was going to happen. And suddenly, news of Parrikar's discharge started floating. BJP leaders were initially in the denial mode. They said that he would not come and his discharge was just a rumour. But as the time passed, the news was confirmed that Parrikar will fly by a chartered flight.

And he did it. Much to the surprise of the legislators and his voters, Parrikar descended at Dabolim airport and from there went to his residence at Dona Paula by a private car. Sources stated that State government had

arranged for a special ambulance to bring him but he refused to travel by it and instead sat in the car and came home.

After resting for some time, he again travelled till assembly complex. He chaired a State cabinet meeting which is mandatory before placing of the budget. The cabinet approved the budget and then Parrikar walked into the assembly.

It was perhaps for the first time that chief minister was received with warm applause in the House. Everyone, including opposition benches, stood up to greet him. And in his own style, Parrikar walked with a bag containing Budget documents with him.



While preparation of Budget was a prolonged exercise for Parrikar, he took only five minutes to speak about it. He was feeble in his voice. But still spoke. He told the House that he is not able to place the entire budget due to his health conditions. But would do it later, before end of the current financial year.

Parrikar just read the figures in the budget while specifying only few major aspects. The populist and development oriented measures like employment and education was highlighted by him in the budget. He did not elaborate on them. But the focus of the budget was certainly these two aspects.

The state government has been



facing the issue of unemployment which it needs to find solution. This budget has a provision for the same. Though the details are not explained through a customary speech that is delivered on the floor of the House, Parrikar said that the employment and education is interlinked.

The chief minister said that the government has laid stress on generating local employment for which total provisions of Rs. 548.89 crores in the sectors of Industry, labour and employment, Information and Technology. In the total education sector including medical education, a total of Rs. 2445 crores have been made.

The total budget is a revenue surplus. The size of budget has also increased. The gross total budgetary expenditure is Rs. 17,123 crores as against Rs. 16,027.01 crores for the year 2017-18 representing an increase of 6.84 per cent over the last year.

The gross total budgetary expenditure is Rs. 17,123 crores as against Rs. 16,027.01 crores for the year 2017-18 representing an increase of 6.84 per cent over the last year.

The total estimated expenditure on revenue account is Rs. 11795.40 crores while the expenditure on Capital Account is Rs. 4218.25 crore. There is an increase in the allocation for capital account expenditure by 10.70 per cent as compared to the revised estimate for the last year, which stands at Rs. 3808.72 crores.

Parrikar said that overall for the year 2018-19, the annual financial statement indicates a revenue surplus for the fifth year in succession. "The revenue surplus is estimated at Rs. 144.65 crores," he said.

Parrikar said that during the financial year, the public debt receipts are estimated at Rs. 1769.22 crores resulting in a fiscal deficit of Rs. 763.68 crores.

The chief minister said that as per the Economic Survey 2017-18 tabled in the assembly, the GSDP for the year 2017-18 is provisionally estimated to be Rs. 70257 crores, which reveals a growth of around 10 per cent. The

total public debt is estimated at Rs. 13937.37 crores, which represents a Public debt to GSDP ratio of 18.06 per cent.

While Budget will decide the future course of path for the State, it also reflects whether state government has managed to rule or not. That is why, this budget is also important for the alliance partners like Goa Forward Party which has been going around claiming to be protectors of Goenkarponn.

Under normal circumstances, chief minister would have announced the populist schemes attracting the cheers. But this has not happened.

There are also several questions which are left unanswered. What is in store for the people who are affected with the crisis on mining industry is

also not clear. If Parrikar was in good health, he would have spelt out the measures to rescue them from the current situation. But the figures does not reveal anything right now. There may be some relief already thought about but they are still in darkness.

Another thing that happened this time is that the opposition benches were clueless what to react for the budget. While ruling benches blindly depending on the five minutes speech by Parrikar based their reaction, the opposition legislators had to wait. The legislator like Aleixo Reginaldo would have grabbed this opportunity to criticize the government but he missed it.

The ruling legislators like Nilesh Cabral had to save themselves from reacting by stating that they were busy looking at the charismatic chief

minister who showed the willpower and they didn't get into the details of the budget.

This would certainly spare the newspapers from losing their lot of space next day. But the real budget will not be understood to the common people.

While we could keep the entire economic aspects of the budget aside, the take home from the entire exercise is that Manohar Parrikar has shown that he can really do it. It also is an example for us to emulate the dedication from this person who went through unexpected bad patch of life and still stood up.

The writer is a senior journalist and currently editing The Neutral View magazine. Can be followed on twitter handle: @rupeshgsamant





Rubaru Mr. India: It's Much Easier to Groom a Novice Inspiring Model

Lt. Rita Gangwani

TEAM TNV

She's an entrepreneur, we must say, successful entrepreneur and is a much sought after Personality Development Mentor Nationally and Internationally. She has been instrumental in helping countless people dramatically improve and enhance their social and business skills, performance, confidence and self-worth. Her Journey from a small town girl to a successful multifaceted trainer has inspired many. The Neutral View spoke to her at the backdrop of upcoming Rubaru Mr. India Contest, where she is associated as "Grooming Partner."

How do you feel after getting associated with Rubaru Mr. India pageant?

Blessed is the word!! The keys to their brand success are self-definition, transparency, authenticity and accountability, and that's the mantra of RUBARU Group. Even though, the youngsters, Pankaj Kharbanda and Sandeep Kumar are running it, they have the mature wisdom of lifetime. They have a great Team spirit, and always give me a free hand as their grooming expert. RUBARU believes that True leadership lies in guiding others to success. In ensuring that everyone is performing at their best, doing the work they are pledged to do and doing it well.

How much role does grooming play in deciding the winner of such an event?

Everyone loves to look at pretty things, regardless if you're a male or female. Beauty pageants are one of the many pretty things that we come across in our lives. Self-Grooming is one of the most important parts of personality development. The way you look and the way you interact makes a very huge

impact. If you feel confident within, you can put your best foot forward. Beauty pageant nowadays does not solely rely on beauty. It's important for the contestant to be smart at least in the question and answer category, where the judges will decide who gets the coveted title. To be a winner, you have to be an all-rounder. We at RUBARU, have special sessions to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of our contestants and work on them.

Is it easier to groom a novice aspiring model or someone who has already began his journey in the field?

Frankly, it's much easier to groom a novice-inspiring model because they come as raw as a neat sheet of paper where I can write anything. Established models have their own learning and habits that may not fit in with the contest format. It takes a long time to convince them to change their old habits and adapt to new ways.

Do you think the current generation needs more of motivational



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push compared to the generation that has passed by?

Older generation was not an instant generation. They had patience and life was simple. However, over the years, things have changed drastically. Today's generation is knee deep in pressure and competition. Motivation and confidence definitely

empowers the younger generation, it's fair to ask whether their brains are fully equipped to handle the degree of diversity they face today? I have a special program named –"Laws of the Living world" where I motivate the participants through stories about handling different situations in life. RUBARU group's main mission is to instill confidence in the contestants.

What is it that makes Indian men and women shine in the international pageants? We have seen several of our boys and girls shining internationally too.

Indian features are unique and stand out in the crowd. Our kids are raised under great values and our

education system makes them all rounder. However, the most important thing is the coaching for the pageant and being the contestant from the right platform. If you are prepared well to crack a contest, you will give your best at every step. We at RUBARU work on each and every aspect of pageantry and groom our kids to be not just the winners in a contest, but also winners in life.

Your journey from small town girl to successful trainer has inspired many. Do you think that even now the girls and boys from small towns are hesitant to take up modeling as a career? And why?

Thanks to the Internet, we are now getting contestants from remote areas as well and they come prepared to face the challenges and hard work. Modeling is not Taboo for them anymore. Availability of modeling coaching institutes and opportunities to enter a contest opens door for them. I myself, am running, my own Modeling and pageant institute by the name of "SASHES AND CROWNS PAGEANTVERSITY", where I am training boys, girls, married women, teenagers and kids to enter the modeling world and beauty contest. During our time, it was really difficult to get such platform. Today, they just need to choose the right platform, and believe me, RUBARU is one such great platform.

You are also a personality development mentor. What do you think is a most common problem with young Indians that shadows their personality?

As mentioned earlier... its lack of patience. Today's

The Neutral View
is the online partner for



Rubaru Mr. India



generation is the INSTANT generation. They are looking for instant success. They don't realize that success comes dressed in the clothing of hard work. Spoon feeding or instant success does not last. To be a champion, I think you have to see the big picture. It's not about winning and losing; it's about every day hard work and about thriving on a challenge. It's about embracing the pain that you'll experience at the end of a race and not being afraid. You learn by doing, and by falling over. Patience is the key!!

The testimonies on your website speak volumes about your success. What next for you in your career?

I am in the process of making a Sanskaar school for young children where they will be taught little things about Indian culture. The bare fact that when you ask a child, "why does his or her mom put bindi?", The usual answer is to look nice. It's a shame that our kids don't know what are the reasons behind our Indian traditions. My purpose is to unite our Indian kids back with their roots.

What is the mantra for success?

Being Present, Preparation, Patience, Persistence and Perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success

Some of the winners trained by you.

Besides, innumerable winners of RUBARU Miss and Mr. India, my present laurels are Miss World Manushi Chhillar as her foundation coach and Miss Teen Universe Srishti Kaur.

Message for the readers

Three important lessons that I have learnt in life and would like to share with the readers are:-

1. Don't be judgmental. Everyone is fighting a battle in their life. If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours. There is nothing more satisfying than being there for someone.
2. Never compare yourself. Everyone has their share of good and bad. No one is perfect. You can't be someone else and the others can't be you. You are unique. Accept yourself
3. Gratitude. Be thankful and happy with what you have. There may be someone who would be praying for things, which you have, lead a life with needs and not desires. I also take this opportunity to wish RUBARU team many more winners in future and thank you for having me on board.

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NIKHIL JACOB

Even as modern means of communication has rendered distances insignificant in the age of ever increasing conflicts, intolerance and plebiscite, the diplomatic gulf between nations seems to be widening, more than ever!

Exploitative development has taken the front seat and rising economies like China are leaving no stone unturned. The Belt and road initiative (BRI) is a case in point. Much of their collaborative investments in African nations like Nigeria, Southeast Asian countries like Laos and South Asian countries like Sri Lanka have rendered these nations debt-ridden. China shares borders with 14 countries and have disputes with 18! Pakistan being an exception, with whom they plan the CPEC, through the disputed POK, paying no heed to India's sovereignty. The South China Sea fiasco and the Dhoklam Standoff are scathing examples of China's stand-alone and imperialistic policies.

While China is a new player, the USA was at it since India's colonial times. Their exploits are best left unspoken. Their pull out from the Paris Climate convention and imminent decertification of the monumental Iran Nuclear deal (JCPOA) doesn't provide any good vibes.

India has maintained strong diplomatic relations with all factions since independence, the then PM Jawaharlal Nehru took a stand with the famous Non alliance movement (NAM) when India was coaxed by USSR to align with the Warsaw pact, while USA prodded her to join NATO.

Even the incumbent PM Narendra Modi's foreign policies are commendable. India has tried to establish diplomatic relationships with many of the countries and much of its foreign investments and policies are on the lines of

VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM

The world is marred with a plethora of environmental, security and terrorism, food, religion and unemployment crisis. India seems to be on the right track pertaining to certain issues, albeit many other issues await attention. Other nations should follow suit.

inclusive and sustainable development. The Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), seen as a counter to China's ambitious BRI is a case in point.

Even as countries are embracing globalisation and bridging gaps, a slew of plebiscites are taking place with the U.K. voting out of EU in the infamous Brexit, signalling an anti-globalisation movement and now Catalan holding a referendum voting out of Spain for autonomy. Baluchistan in Pakistan is seeking identity, but Pakistan cannot afford another Bangladesh. Tibet in China has its own independence crisis. India too has its shares of identity seeking populace. Kashmir and the Nagas of northeast are examples of unsuccessful attempts (or on-going conflicts), while Telegana is the new addition to the nation's ever increasing number of states. India has border

disputes with Pakistan and China; Pakistan occupying Gilgit Balistan and Azad Kashmir forming POK and China occupying Aksai Chin forming COK.

India has control over only about 45% of the Kashmir we see in maps today. Identity driven crisis led countries like Sri Lanka into the dark gallows of Civil War for nearly 3 decades, while it left the Rohingya of Myanmar homeless and neighbouring countries like India in a surplus of refugee influx. All this at a time when India is struggling to fend for her own growing population, leaving the Rohingya to lick their own wounds.

On one hand, we have oil rich Venezuela, amidst a socio-economic and political crisis, with the highest inflation rate in the world and widespread shortage of food, leading to skyrocketing crime rates that stood at staggering 91% homicides in 2016. On the other hand we have North Korea going haywire, seeking to bomb everything under the sky!

Much of these are issues, which found worldwide media glare; the truth is far more than what meets the eye. The world is marred with a plethora of environmental, security and terrorism, food, religion and unemployment crisis. India seems to be on the right track pertaining to certain issues, albeit many other issues await attention. Other nations should follow suit.

The question arising is where are we headed, while where we came from is still a mystery. What's known is, "the world is one family"- Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. We have to save it, you and me.

The writer is a Post graduate in Public Administration





TV IN 2018: WHAT TO WATCH THIS YEAR



PALASH VOLVOIKAR

If you have watched all those movie trailers till now, you know how good 2018 is going to be, entertainment wise. Now, we have seen however the last few years, television has grown to become a medium so powerful, actually much more entertaining than cinema, and even has surpassed cinema in terms of production quality and other aspects. The quality is only on the rise. We get better and better TV shows every year, and 2018 is set to be the same. Let's take a look!

Starting off, let's talk about the returning shows. The biggest show right now, is Game of Thrones, and sadly, it will not be returning this year. HBO has officially announced that the show returns with the final season in 2019, and it is going to be a long wait till then. Luckily, we have other returning shows that will fill up the space. First off, are HBO's baddies:

Silicon Valley

SILICON VALLEY



The hit geek sitcom will return to HBO March 25. Silicon Valley is set to ramp up the pace despite the fact that there will be no Erlich Bachman this year round, making it the second big character the show has lost in its 4 seasons.

Westworld

Westworld is considered to be the next big hit from HBO after Game of Thrones, and the show will



return back to HBO on April 22. If you haven't watched this show already, I suggest you to watch the first season before Season 2 premieres. The show carries the production value of Game of Thrones, and has Jonathan Nolan at the helm, who is the brother and frequent collaborator of revered director Christopher Nolan.

Moving on to Netflix, we have quite a few returning shows, as well as some great new shows:

A Series of Unfortunate Events

Lemony Snicket's famous stories return once again this year, and Neil Patrick Harris and Patrick Warburton. The story has been rendered multiple times, but this rendition is easily the best, and the second chapter comes to Netflix on March 30.

Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt



They alive, dammit! Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt is one of those shows that has come to define the style and success of Netflix originals, and the show is all set to make a comeback with the fourth season on May 30.

Moving on to the newcomers, Netflix has already amazed us by delivering two hits so early on in 2018:

Altered Carbon

This show, right now, holds the crown for the best new show of 2018. Set in the future, more than 300 years in the future, the show explores a society where the technology is so advanced, death isn't permanent. This cyberpunk show has impressed a lot of viewers, and is being called Netflix's next big show.

The End of the F***ing World

This story about two misfit teenagers that find each other and go around wrecking havoc, explores the wild side of humanity and how it is when someone cracks. The show has been loved, and while it ends without a prospect of return, things might have been left open enough to mark a possible return next year.

Both these shows are already streaming on Netflix. There is one more Netflix show to watch out for, and it ends this year:

House of Cards

This show made Netflix what it is. The knock you hear with the Netflix logo intro, is the knock on wood that the lead character, Frank Underwood, does, and that is everything you need to know to know how big this show has been for Netflix. Sadly the sexual harassment allegations against Kevin Spacey have brought the show cascading downwards, and the show will end its run with its sixth and final season, in 2018. Kevin Spacey is highly unlikely to return as Frank Underwood.

Other networks are wrapping shows up as well:

You're the Worst

The fifth and final Season of the show will return to FX this year. The show beautifully explored the relationship between two broken people, and is one of the best told stories on television, ever, and is one of my favorite shows. It is almost sad that the show is ending so soon, because it was a fresh take on love stories, quite unlike anything else we have seen before.

That's about it for the good ones. The usual substandard programming will return, including CW's mess of DC Comics superhero shows that get worse every year, and Marvel's decent bunch of shows spread across multiple networks. There are also the always returning shows, some of which have overstayed their welcome. We might also see some new announcements soon, so I suggest you keep an eye out, and hopefully The Big Bang Theory will finally end and rid us all of some miserable television viewing.



A wink to Success

What makes something popular today

SANDEEP HEBLE

What does it take for song or a video or something to go viral? Sometimes, it might just be a wink, which happened in the case of Priya Prakash Varrier, a little known actress who turned into an overnight sensation. With more than 15 million views on Youtube at last count and still going strong, it was strange to explain how this 30 second clip from her upcoming Malayalam film “Oru Adaar Love”, went insanely viral. And yet it did. This video turned Priya Prakash Varrier into a national heartthrob. In just 2 days after its release, her Instagram account swelled by over 2 million followers. As did her Facebook Page. Her co-actor, Roshan Abdul Rahoof, the boy who made her wink, too made his way into young hearts with a legion of admirers of his own.

So what was it that got everyone hooked? Perhaps a lot of factors. The fact that this clip came nearly around the same time as the Valentine’s Day with love in the air, two young new faces, some beautiful expressions exhibited by these two actors, and campus love which could relate to each one of us must have been major attributing factors. More importantly, this video struck an immediate emotional chord with its viewers.

And it is this emotional connect which can delightfully touch many hearts. The clip touched us and we began sharing it. Among our friends, among our relatives and even among those whom we would hardly know. Within a matter of a few hours, the see sawing of eyebrows were trending and within a matter of a couple of days, the clip soared to roaring heights.

The basic principles of what makes something popular hasn’t changed. The product has to be good,



For every successful video that goes viral, there will be dozens that fail to hit the mark. Good marketing. Good content. Good distribution. Some novelty. Some sensation. Some luck. Sometimes controversy. These could be some ingredients to propel something to success.

there has to be some novelty factor, and there has to be something cute, something sensational which can stir your imagination. I can recall, during our college days, a little known Pakistani singer Hasaan Jahangir shot to fame with his Album “Hawa Hawa”, which became immensely popular. In those days, there was no Internet or Social media platforms. So our

source of listening songs was either through the All India Radio programmes, or by purchasing Audio cassettes. But in no time, this song and a few other songs from this album became a rage. In every school and every college, the youngsters began humming this song.

This was soon followed by the freshness of the movie “Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak” songs, and two new faces Aamir Khan and Juhi Chawla, became the next heartthrobs of the Nation. Then, came a song which went like “Ek Do Teen Char Paanch Cheh”, two versions, one by Alka Yagnik and another by Amit Kumar, simple lyrics, some novelty, which rose all their way to the top of the charts. Who can forget Madhuri Dixit’s dance, her delightful steps and the grace with which she

executed this “Ek Do Teen” song. No sooner had the euphoria of this died down, then came another new movie, starring two more fresh faces, a pretty young Bhagyashree and a to-be-superstar, Salman Khan. South Indian singing sensation S. P. Balasubramaniam added the novelty factor to the songs from this movie ‘Maine Pyar Kiya’, with the uniqueness of his voice. All the songs from this movie rocked, and the movie itself went on to become a huge blockbuster.

A good product will normally bring you success but sometimes, there is also an element of luck involved. No matter how good a song will be or how good the video has been made, it may struggle to make its way to the top. This is because of the frivolous and at times a whimsical manner in which the Internet works nowadays, where sometimes curiosity takes over quality. A rather ridiculous song and a video, Pakistan’s singer Taher Shah’s Angel took the internet by storm some time back and nobody could really figure out why. One tweet expressed this perfectly, reading: “This #TaherShah stuff is like cricket. It’s so very confusing to me but glad something’s trending in #Pakistan that’s not terrorism related.”

For every successful video that goes viral, there will be dozens that fail to hit the mark. Good marketing. Good content. Good distribution. Some novelty. Some sensation. Some luck. Sometimes controversy. These could be some ingredients to propel something to success. But a good product will always have the longevity factor. The quality of the product will eventually stay in your mind for long and that is eventually all that matters.

The writer is Treasurer of Goa RTI Forum. Views expressed are his own)





UPCOMING MOBILES

Last year we saw a host of new phones with premium features. The entry of new mobile companies has triggered a price war and every brand is offering smart phones at very competitive rates. If you have been waiting to upgrade to a new phone you might just want to have a look at the phones which are in line to be launched soon.

Samsung Galaxy J5 Pro

Expected Launch: FEB'18
Expected Price: Rs. 15,990

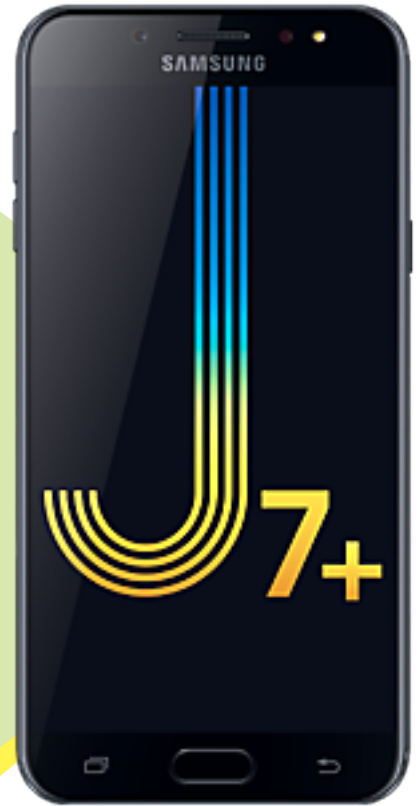
- Android v7.0 (Nougat)
- 1.6 GHz Tru-Octa Core
- 3 GB RAM
- 32 GB Storage
- 5.2" (13.21 cm) Display
- 3000 mAh Battery
- 13 MP Rear Camera
- 13 MP Front Camera
- Dual SIM
- No Quick Charging



Samsung Galaxy J7 Plus

Expected Launch: FEB'18
Expected Price: Rs. 21,990

- Android v7.1.1 (Nougat)
- 2.3 GHz Tru-Octa Core
- 4 GB RAM
- 32 GB Storage
- 5.5" (13.97 cm) Display
- 3000 mAh Battery
- 13 MP Rear Camera
- 16 MP Front Camera
- VoLTE, Dual SIM



Xiaomi Redmi 5

Expected Launch : Mar'18
Expected Pricers. 7,990

- Android v7.1.2 (Nougat)
- 1.8 GHz Octa Core
- 2 GB RAM
- 16 GB Storage
- 5.7" (14.48 cm) Display
- 3300 mAh Battery
- 12 MP Rear Camera
- 5 MP Front Camera
- Dual SIM
- No Quick Charging



LG Stylo 3 Plus

Expected Launch : Feb'18
Expected Price: Rs. 14,990

- Android v7.0 (Nougat)
- 1.4 GHz Tru-Octa Core
- 2 GB RAM
- 32 GB Storage
- 5.7" (14.48 cm) Display
- 3080 mAh Battery
- 13 MP Rear Camera
- 5 MP Front Camera
- VoLTE, Single SIM
- Quick Charging



Apple iPhone 9

Expected Launch : Aug'18
Expected Price: Rs. 74,990

- iOS v11
- 4 GB RAM
- 64 GB Storage
- 5.2" (13.21 cm) Display
- 2050 mAh Battery
- 12 MP Rear Camera
- 7 MP Front Camera
- VoLTE, Single SIM
- Quick Charging



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9834407404

VITHOBA MHALKAR

Leadership is an essential art of motivating a group of people to act towards achieving a common goal. It's a capacity to bring vision into reality and not all people in the world has the inborn capacity to achieve it. Leadership qualities are partly inherited but the best part is leader's can be made with efficient training and also by developing the risk taking abilities and hence the key ingredient is again working on their emotional intelligence and enhancing it. There have been phenomenal leaders in the past with extra ordinary vision and courage to perform like Martin Luther King , the Great Mahatma Gandhi, Ashoka and the list goes on. Over the years the focus from the traditional styles of leadership of being either an autocratic or a benevolent or a laissez faire leader has shifted to being an emotional intelligent leader. A leader who can negotiate through his emotions and understands the emotions of other and create a bridge between their thought process to come to a fruitful conclusion.

There are predominantly six styles of emotionally intelligent leader like,

The Visionary Leader

The Visionary Leader moves people towards a shared vision, telling them where to go but not how to get there thus motivating them to struggle forwards. They openly share information, hence giving knowledge power to others. They can fail when trying to motivate more experienced experts or peers. This style is best when a new direction is needed. Overall, it has a very strong impact on the climate.

The Coaching Leader

The Coaching Leader connects wants to organizational goals, holding long conversations that reach beyond the workplace, helping people find strengths and weaknesses and tying these to career aspirations and actions. They are good at delegating challenging assignments, demonstrating faith that demands justification and which leads to high levels of loyalty. It is best used when individuals need to build long-term capabilities. It has a highly positive impact on the climate.

The Affiliative Leader

The Affiliative Leader creates people connections and thus harmony

Being a leader with a difference

within the organization. It is a very collaborative style which focuses on emotional needs over work needs. When done badly, it avoids emotionally distressing situations such as negative feedback. Done well, it is often used alongside visionary leadership. It is best used for healing rifts and getting through stressful situations. It also has a positive impact on climate.

The Democratic Leader

The Democratic Leader acts to value inputs and commitment via participation, listening to both the bad and the good news. When done badly, it looks like lots of listening but very little effective action. It is best used when simple inputs are needed. It has a positive impact on climate.

The Pace-setting Leader

The Pace-setting Leader builds challenge and exciting goals for people, expecting excellence and often exemplifying it themselves. They identify poor performers and demand more of them. If necessary, they will

roll up their sleeves and rescue the situation themselves. They tend to be low on guidance, expecting people to know what to do. They get short term results but over the long term this style can lead to exhaustion and decline. It is best used for results from a motivated and competent team.

The Commanding Leader

The Commanding Leader soothes fears and gives clear directions by his or her powerful stance, commanding and expecting full compliance. They need emotional self-control for success and can seem cold and distant. This approach is best in times of crisis when you need unquestioned rapid action and with problem employees who do not respond to other methods.

So how do one develop himself to become an emotionally intelligent leader????

Developing this 10 essential skills may definitely help one transform into an emotionally intelligent leader and succeed in all his endeavours. What emotionally intelligent leaders do is,

- They're willing to delay gratification
- They can tolerate conflict
- They focus ...focus and only focus
- They're judiciously courageous
- They're in control of their egos
- They're never satisfied and keep on upgrading
- They recognize when things are broken and fix them
- They're marketable or likeable
- They neutralize toxic people
- They Bring all their expertise together

Emotionally intelligent leaders have the unique quality of Understanding emotions of others, managing emotions of self and others, having self control, express and recognize emotions and finally utilise emotions in decisions. Thus it might be seen that 85% -90% of the difference between a good leader and excellent leader is due to differences in their Emotional Intelligence. So the need of the hour is to strive towards upgrading your emotional literacy, understand the ABCs of emotion and eventually become a leader to reckon with.

Lecturer, INE and a Certified Emotionally intelligent trainer





And the Oscar goes to....

TEAM TNV

It is that time of the year! Over the last couple of months, we have been seeing a steady stream of award shows, and all the big ones have already been held, including the Golden Globes, but now it's time for the final one: The Academy Awards, or like we usually call them, the Oscars! Let's take a look at what's at stake this year.

Now, the nominees this year are quite inclusive, as one might think after The Academy finally started recognising talent of colored people, with even *Moonlight* taking home the much deserved Best Picture Award last year. However, the Academy still remains averse to comedies. To put things in perspective, let's talk about the Best Picture nominees of the year. The category has nine nominees this year: *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, *The Post*, *The Shape of Water*, *Dunkirk*, *Lady Bird*, *Get Out*, *Call Me By Your Name*, *Phantom Thread*, and *Darkest Hour*.

Now, all the movies in this category are strong contenders. *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* is a fan favorite, showing a mother's struggle to get justice for her daughter's murder, with gripping performances by Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson, and Sam Rockwell. *The Post* is about the *Washington Post*'s struggle to stay afloat as the government declared a war on it, with Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks lighting up the screen. *Dunkirk* is a World War II saga by Christopher Nolan that is some of the finest and most coherent storytelling in recent times. *Darkest Hour* stars our favorite Sirius Black, Gary Oldman, as Winston Churchill, making it the second film in the roster to be a World War II movie.

Guillermo Del Toro's fantasy, *The Shape of Water* is also one of the frontrunners for the award, but by now you must have noticed the fact that the Academy has very obviously ignored the best comedy of the year: *The Disaster Artist*. The Academy has for long known to snub comedies, but this year's, is the biggest.



James Franco's pet project, *The Disaster Artist*, depicts the story behind the making of what is considered as the worst movie in the recent history of Hollywood: *The Room*. The mysterious Tommy Wiseau put a lot of money into making *The Room* with his friend Greg Sestero. While the movie had a budget of \$6 million, all of which came from Wiseau, it made only \$1,800 at the box office, but has since then become a cult classic for being hilariously bad. *The Disaster Artist*, on the other hand, is a brilliant film showing the whole journey behind *The Room*.

The Academy has a limit of total 10 films to be admitted into the Best Picture category, but only none were picked this year, with *The Disaster Artist* being left out, despite there being plenty of room for it. Moving on to the Best Actor category, James Franco deserved a nomination even more than the movie did, but he was left out as well. I'm guessing the Academy's aversion to comedy roles and its whitewashing with regards to the recent unproven sexual harassment allegations against Franco led to him missing out on the nomination. Not only was he left out of this category, but the Best Direction nomination evaded him as well.

The only ray of hope for the inclusion of comedy as a serious filmmaking genre is the nomination in the best adapted screenplay category. *The Disaster Artist* is based on the book of the same name, written by Greg Sestero, and Scott Neustadter & Michael H. Weber managed to bag a nomination for adapting it to the big screen.

As far as the actual wins for the year go, Best Picture is a tough battle, in addition to most other leading categories. The only clear wins include Best Actor, which is likely to be a win for Gary Oldman, and Best Supporting Actor, with Sam Rockwell set as the winner.

While the quality of pictures at the Oscars never really wavers, I wish it would include comedies. Let's face it, it would be pretty great to see a great comedic project being appreciated for all the effort it made to make us all life. I'm not rooting for the likes of *Scary Movie* here, just hoping for a little bit of inclusion, as the trend is these days.



Pets are your friends, not a status symbol

NISHAL AROSKAR

“Where there is love, there is life”, said by our great leader, Mahatma Gandhi. We’ll come across so many preachers and philosophers who conclude their teachings by telling us to love all humans despite all the flaws and negative energies we possess. We’ve grown up with lessons to love humans without discriminating on the basis of their race, religion, region and origin. The one question that follows; Are all these teachings only applicable to humans? What about animals?

Recently, it has been a trend rather than a responsibility to adopt animals and tame them as pets. May be because of the social media effect where we see rich people and celebrities pose with their furry, rare breed dogs. Alas! Like how we dream of having a certain person as our soul mate, we also decide what traits our pet will possess, beauty and race being the most crucial factors.

It is so much easier for people to spend thousands of rupees and buy a Rottweiler, a golden Retriever or even a Prussian cat. Unknowingly, it somewhat fuels our ego. But there are thousands of stray cats and dogs looking for shelter in the rain, searching for food in the dustbin and even dying under our vehicles; still left unnoticed at their state of misery. The skinnier their bodies emphasizing all their bones, the flatter their tummies, the more injured parts they carry, the more stones they are thrown at.

May God have mercy on us, but this is true. First of all, I ask, why do we even tame a pet? Is it out of real love? Or is

it to portray to the world that we sacrificed thousands of rupees to add a new member to our family? Or is it so that it is easier and we are happier to take a Rottweiler for a morning walk over an almost dead, skinny, corpse of a body stray dog? May be because we wouldn't get any likes on Instagram. It's unbelievable how we tag even animals to our status.

It is tragic and very shameful on our part that we are putting labels and price tags on the collars of every animal depending on how “rich” the breed is.

It is not right on our part to link the breed of an animal to our status. On the contrary, these animals; beautiful,

ugly, healthy, injured, classify all the human beings they encounter on the basis of love they receive from every individual. Food, shelter and love is all that they crave for irrespective to what race they belong and how shiny their fur is. They don't care how big your house is, what car you drive, what your profession is.

If they do not care what our skin colour is, who are we to bring up all the differences? At the end of the day, all pets wait for owners to return home waiting for their warm embrace or a simple pat on their heads.

Every human is special, likewise, every animal is special. Every animal has its own beauty. When we learn

to love these stray animals despite all our tastes, we evolve as humans and also inspire our closed ones to do so such deeds. The real connection builds up when you love an animal despite all features you don't like.

Imagine a pregnant lady; homeless, hungry, all worn out roaming along the streets in pain looking for food and comfort. Our hearts would melt at such a sight. We would even be angry at God for being so harsh. But what we all forget is, the same way so many cats and dogs give birth to their new ones along the road, in the woods, dark secluded corners and then looking for food to feed their babies. Isn't this and equally

heart breaking sight? Some don't bother to notice, some turn around their gaze to save themselves from guilt. Some are ruthless enough to hurt them.

Why are we so resistant towards adopting these animals? It is definitely not difficult to love them once we open up to them and allow love to be bidirectional. Let all your tastes and dislikes fade away. This is the time for change for the sake of safety of all animals and preserving mankind; because if we are kind to animals only then we are eligible to be called as “Humans”.

Writer is an Engineering student at Agnel Institute of Technology and Design, Assagao





How social media infected us

There are many benefits to staying away from social media. The first one being that you don't have to compare your life with others. It makes you appreciate the things you have and where you are much more. Because where you are is right where you need to be. We also wouldn't have to worry about likes or retweets.

CRISTON RIEN

Did you know? There are over 3.5 billion social media users in the world, out of which 3.03 billion of them are active. The numbers keep growing and so does the influence it possesses. We've often heard that if the temptation doesn't exist then the urge to be tempted wouldn't be there in the first place. Over the past few years, we've gained a new found love for social media with all the 'fake' prizes it possesses. Its power to attract our attention in a matter of seconds is what gives us a rush in the first place. Whether it be likes, comments or reactions, we all love being appreciated on our posts. However, the funniest concept about social media is people adding so called "friends" they don't even know they go on adding unknowns

just to prove to the world that they have 'X' amount of friends on Facebook just for the sake of bragging rights. In my opinion, that isn't anything to brag about. I too can create 100 different accounts and add myself as a friend. That's just as good as adding randoms. Social media is a global phenomenon unlike any other that has captivated us in ways unimaginable. It doesn't have to be something so cancerous. But the truth is that, it is. And we are to blame with the way we use it. It filters our reality and the person we really are. Users quickly turn themselves into something they're not just for public appreciation. What's popular is right. Right? And what isn't popular is a lie. Why? Because a certain celebrity said so or because he started a trend. It gets worse and worse how the truth slowly fades away from us

day by day.

The truth is that social media does not and I mean DOES NOT bring happiness. We tend to compare our lives with others, when we scroll through our timeline. "Oh! He's got more likes than me". " She's gone on vacation to Hawaii while I'm sitting here at home". How depressing right? In the next 10 years, depression will be the number one cause for deaths around the world surpassing cancer. Want real happiness? Try meeting and talking to people face to face and forming a true bond and friendship. You're talking to the real person here and not just a filtered profile. Nobody looks like they do on Instagram. And that is why so many people are surprised when they see that same person they follow on Instagram in real life. There are many benefits to

staying away from social media. The first one being that you don't have to compare your life with others. It makes you appreciate the things you have and where you are much more. Because where you are is right where you need to be. We also wouldn't have to worry about likes or retweets. It helps us chase real appreciation. You also cut off contact with the haters, naysayers and all the negative energy. Stalkers would no longer be a problem and you will find yourself procrastinating less during work making you far more productive.

So live in the now and don't worry about what they advertise you to be. A wise man once said 'Be Yourself' and that man's name was Bruce Lee. There's nothing more satisfying than being yourself.

The writer is a Mass media student at Don Bosco College

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rainbow



The Bug and the Poor Flea

Mandavisarpini was a white flea. She lived in the folds of the exquisite white silk sheet that covered the bed of a king in a certain country.

She fed on the king's blood without anybody noticing, and was happy to spend her days.

One day, a bug managed to enter the beautifully decorated bedroom of the king.

When the flea saw him, she warned, "O Bug, what are you doing in the king's bedroom. Leave at once before you get caught!"

The bug replied, "Madam, even

if I were a good-for-nothing bug, that is no way to treat a guest. One should welcome a guest with humble words, sweet behaviour and offer refreshments"

The bug continued, "I have fed myself with all types of blood, but never have I had the pleasure of the blood of a King. It must be very sweet, for the king eats the choicest of food. I would love to taste the king's blood, if you permit."

The flea was taken aback, "O Bug, you have a nasty bite, like a sharp needle. Besides, I feed on the

king's blood only when he is deep into his sleep. I can permit you to feed on the king's blood only if you promise to wait till he is asleep."

The bug agreed, "I promise to wait till the king is asleep, and only after you have fed yourself, will I feed myself on his blood."

Soon after they decided on such terms, the king came to his bedroom and lay down to sleep.

The bug could not control himself, and decided to take a tiny bite of the king, without waiting. As the king was yet to fall asleep, he jumped at the sharp bite of the bug.

The king shouted at his servants, "Hey, there is something in my bed that has bitten me. Look for it, as I have already been bitten."

On hearing this, the bug quickly hid himself in a corner of the bed, before the servants could start searching for him.



However, the servants scrutinized the entire bed, sheet by sheet, and found the flea between the folds. They killed her at once, and the king went to sleep without anymore worries.

The wise indeed say:
The false promises of friends as well as strangers have no value. You end up paying for it.

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Happy Birthday

Perpetua D'silva

Best wishes from husband Michael, daughter Annabelle and son Nathan and from all loved ones. Wishing you good health and happiness always.

Lots of love



Stop Thinking and Start Doing

TEAM TNV

Our mind is the most powerful weapon in the world. It has the ability to do things unimaginable. However, we often utilize it the wrong way. In the past, and even to this day, man continues to create and destroy through innovations by the mind. But I'm not here to talk about history, war or even destruction. What I am going to speak about is the human tendency to think a million times before going out and actually doing something. Have you ever wanted to try something new and ended up listing all the negative outcomes that could possibly occur to you? Well, don't worry my friend you are not alone. In fact none of us are. Because we all go through the same thing. We as humans are natural thinkers. More so than not, we create negative outcomes more than positive ones. Not because we aren't positive or anything. But because we like to prepare ourselves for the worst. This often leads to putting ourselves in the worst possible position mentally and therefore we do not end up taking action towards our desired goal. Let's say you want to purchase a brand new Ferrari. It has been your dream car for a while now and you've been thinking about getting your hands on one for a few years now. However, you find every possible excuse not to get up and go to work. Your boss is annoying, you don't like the people around you, you do not have enough office space etc. You are quite lazy and the attitude you display towards the journey of achieving your dream car isn't all that pretty. So what do you do? You start to think more and work less. If you are not willing to do, the prize will not reach your hands. Visualizing is only one piece to the puzzle. By no means is 'thinking' something dangerous. When we think we can create some pretty amazing things too. The problem arises when we think and do not act.

When we practice something, we are involved in the repetition of a process with the intention of reaching a specific goal. The more we practice, the better we get at that particular activity. Learning something new and practicing something new may seem very similar but these two methods can have

profoundly different results. When you learn something, you merely gain knowledge on how to do that particular activity. You now only have the blueprint with you but that blueprint will not come to life if you do not practice it or work on it. Let's say your goal is to be stronger and fit. You research the best instructions on bench press or squat technique, but the only

way to build strength is to practice lifting those weights consistently. We are wired to want to continue seeking information, even when we have all we need. This hinders us from taking action and we focus on gaining more information. This is exactly where the 'thinking' starts increasing and the 'doing' starts decreasing. We ask ourselves a thousand questions in our mind. What works the best? How is this technique better from the other? What are the results going to be? how much money would I make? Etc. You wouldn't really find out until you tried, would you?

We don't have to admit to ourselves that we're scared to get started, that we're paralyzing ourselves with perfectionism, or that we're simply afraid to fail. No, instead we need to convince ourselves that we will take action. One of main reason why Nike is my favorite brand is because of its tag line 'Just Do It'. Not only is it catchy and is great for marketing purposes but it also gives the audience something to look forward to and that by taking action consistently you will achieve positive results.

There are few ways and simple adjustments we can make to our lives that can cause us to take action.

1. Build a habit: when you start with a creative habit, you eliminate excuses that prevent you from doing. It becomes a part of you, which means you cannot live without it making it that much more natural to occur.
2. No distraction: you can cut down distractions in your digital life and in your physical life. With fewer distractions, you can focus on getting the job done
3. Practice self-motivation: motivate yourselves and ask yourselves what it is that is holding you back from doing. Tell yourself that with each day you will get better. Start the day with meditation or any other positive habit that will set the tone for the rest of the day making you more productive.

LITTLE BIG THINGS ABOUT FEMINISM

SINI FERNANDES

“Aren't you too young to be a feminist?”

Somebody asked me this once and also stated that they believe in equality but not in feminism. I think, that itself is the root of all the misconceptions. There are people who make remarks and statements without knowing what is feminism and why it is needed.

First of all, let's have a look at the question. No, I am not too young to be a feminist. You can be a feminist at any age and at any time. Let's have a look at this 12-year-old Marley Dias. Being a voracious reader, she discovered that most of the books she read only told stories about white boys and their dogs and she wanted to change it. She launched a campaign called #1000Blackgirlbooks. Through this campaign, she wanted to collect and donate 1000 books that would feature black girls as the main characters. She has collected and donated more than that and she has brought a change. A change that will help readers, be it a girl or boy, to look at a story from a black girl's perspective. It will break the stereotypes that only a boy can be the hero while girls stay in the background. As we know, that what we read shapes our mind.

Now, as we have started to look at mediums of information and entertainment, let's also look at movies. Especially the animated movies that are loved by young and old. Movies like Cinderella, Sleeping beauty affected many generations, even ours. It made the girls think that their problems would be solved only by a prince that would come and sweep them of their feet. The boys on the other hand thought that girls have always been incapable of solving their problems and that a man was the only answer they looked for. It also built an image in their mind that girls are typically frail and fragile. This boosted their ego. Which resulted in conflicts and power games. Now, the times have changed. There are movies like 'Brave' wherein Merida (the protagonist) tries to break free of all the compulsions she has to follow just because she is a girl. She wants equality and that also means choosing when she gets married. Feminism is about empowering and not diminishing man.

I have also been asked that if you want equality, freedom and empowerment then why do you want



reserved seats for women in bus? Why do you want the privilege for being a woman? So here's the answer. Reserved seat is something that a woman needs. Because as we ask for it, you should remember those 4 days when we bleed, or when we carry a child, inside our womb or into our arms. We know that sometimes even men get sexually harassed but women get harassed 100 times more. Especially when they travel and that's why seating in a reserved seat is much safer. Now here's the final reason, even today, in most of the households, it's a woman who gets up early, prepares breakfast, wakes up her children, dresses them up, even prepares lunch and then rushes out to catch the bus for work. While the husband, has his breakfast and leaves for work. This everyday juggling between housework and work life is tiring. Mentally and physically especially if a woman is anemic (most of them are) then it's worse and getting a seat in the crowded bus is a big relief.

I would also like to address the term feminazi. Mostly, women who advocate feminism are given this label. They are termed as the men-haters. Here's the thing, relating feminism with nazi is not only wrong but it shakes the whole foundation. Feminists are not men haters. Feminists are just advocates of equal rights. Even a man can be a feminist. You just have to believe that both the sexes deserve equal

rights and work towards it. As I talk about feminist men, I'll also talk about misogynists, men who hate and have prejudices against women but are all men like that? No. Same way, there are misandrist, female version of misogynist. But feminists aren't misandrist because when we talk about equal rights, we also talk about equal amount of respect for each other.

There are still women fighting to break the glass ceiling, to breath

in freedom and put an end to harassment, be it physical, mental or sexual but this fight is not only of women but it's a fight that needs to be fought by everybody because the day women will be fully empowered, the day she will break all the chains, the day she will truly stand shoulder to shoulder alongside men, only that day, there will be a real change in this world.

Freelance writer

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BASMA YAKUB

LET'S EMBRACE MOTIVATION AT WORK!

9:00 to 5:00 job, tiring extra hours, presentation deadlines, stressful targets, unending line of emptied coffee mugs, strained eyes, head and back aches?? Every employee feels these stabs during their work life. Can we avoid them? Not really. So what's the best we can expect? A little motivation so we can hustle harder! Motivation is a hidden drive that we give to ourselves or expect others to give us, so that we can accomplish our goals. When you want to achieve your goals in life, it is very essential to stay motivated 24X7. However, life is a difficult maze; hence staying motivated all the time does not seem possible, especially at a work place.

We, human beings are the most essential natural resource that every business organization needs for its survival. One major difference between human beings and the other natural or artificial resources are our "EMOTIONS". We therefore involve emotions into everything we do; this also includes while at workplace. When we work emotionally, thriving for best results, we expect something in return. This "little wish" that we have a desire for, once accomplished, gives us a further boost to achieve more. In today's modern day business, the upper level management and H.R (Human Resource Team) needs to understand and jot in the priority list by motivating its employees.

There have been many management experts who have formed theories to streamline the understanding of workforce motivation but these theories have also faced their share of criticisms. What we need to understand is that every human has different set of needs. One worker might think the authority given to him by the management as an accomplishment whereas another worker would not consider this as a boon at all. Therefore, management and business owners needs to understand that there is always a scope of improvement through which they can boost an employee's morale. Some of the ways could be:

1) **The Pay:** Salary is the first most important factor that any employee or even a potential employee would look at in the company they work or intend to work. Pay appropriate salary as per the designation you assign to the employee, the educational qualification he has, the work

experience he has acquired and by doing a study on what the market pays for the same role. To keep an employee motivated it's very essential for the company to place the right person for the right job.

2) **Fringe/Perquisites Benefits:**

This is the extra benefit an employee receives above the regular payment they get. When an employee performs well, his efforts need to be recognized by the management. The company can give suitable benefit like a vehicle, discounted travel tickets and hotel stays, comp offs, life insurance, gift vouchers, picnics and parties and more. These benefits make the employees feel satisfied at their workplace.

3) **Recognition:** Once an employee joins an organization, they always aim for recognition. They expect recognition in return when they perform extremely well. It is important for the management to pause and stand to appreciate for the good the employee has done in front of all the other employees. This makes the employee feel respected and recognized for the extra effort they have put in further making them more efficient and productive.

4) **Authority and Trust:**

Management needs to let go some of their authority in the hands of the efficient employees. This has its own set of advantages. Firstly, management can overlook on some issues

where an employee can also take a decision and give attention to other vital work. Secondly, the employee will feel more important as he is been given the authority to take decisions for the company. If this method is adopted by the management, it will reflect as though the company and the management trust in this employee.

- 5) **Be open to Feedback and Suggestions:** One raw fact that the management needs to understand is that whatever, plans and work ideas they suggest are finally executed by the employees. So it is mandatory for them to listen to the feedback or suggestion the employees provide. Most of the times, these feedbacks come to the rescue and this also makes the employee feel motivated and respected. A total win-win situation.
- 6) **Say no to politics and yes to being transparent:** What we need to understand here is that even the management consists of humans and as mentioned earlier, humans involve emotions in everything they do. Hence, if there is politics

happening, understand that they are humans too. But if the management takes this point seriously and try to avoid politics in the business decisions they take, it will make the employees feel equal to the other and motivated to perform better.

- 7) **Interact and keep your doors open:** I feel it's vital for the management to talk informal to its employees at times. There's no harm in talking about your personal life for the starting 05 minutes when you pop into the office with your subordinates. Learn to laugh with your employees. Management needs to learn to create a bond with its employees rather than just walking straight responding to the half-hearted "Good Morning" wishes. Management needs to learn to give time to its employees. Let them pop into your cabin and discuss any problem they are facing at work or with the work atmosphere or anything else that's bugging them.
- 8) **Do not Pressurize:** Most of the employees consider work life like a hamster wheel, hence, it would really count if the management avoids pressurizing its employees. There are times when an employee has his own set of work plus sudden management requested reports that they need to complete. In this, it would really keep the employee motivated to do the work if they are not pressurized on the extra work.
- 9) **Let them have their space:** Management should not keep interrupting an employee's personal space. Let them take a break. Let them receive calls (only a genuine employee would not take calls when the work is overflowing). Let them talk, laugh and have fun with their teammates. This is also essential for good team building achieving set targets. At the end, work done well is what counts.
- 10) **Be a mentor:** Management should learn how to inspire the employee who is not performing well at work. Guide them, explain things properly and encourage them if they are losing hope. Reprimanding should not be the only way out. After all, not all wars ended with a terrific fight. Learn this from our very own Gandhi!

Freelance writers



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